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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF NIGERIA

IPF:(1987-91) $ 34 278 000

(NIR/88/009) - Assistance to the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	27 February 1991
Expected duration:	36 months
Proposed executing agency:	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Government implementing agency:	Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 2 522 900 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 2 522 900

Project background

An integrated approach to standardization activities, quality assurance and control, testing and metrology practices at the national level is essential for Nigeria in order to support its growing industrial sector. The Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), created in 1970, to protect the domestic consumer and enhance the competitiveness of Nigerian products abroad, has so far produced 285 Nigerian Industrial Standards (NIS) and conducted factory inspections, quality control, certification and other supplementary activities. SON performs some elementary in-house compliance testing in its relatively small laboratories, and also uses limited test facilities available in industry, universities and research institutions. SON operates through its Headquarters in Abuja, its Lagos office and several strategically located zonal offices such as Kaduna, Enugu and Jos. It does not have an adequate quality assurance programme, nor does it have a modern documentation and information system on standards and related subjects. SON suffers from a lack of proper in-house testing facilities; and most of the laboratory equipment is out of commission and needs to be repaired or replaced.

The present project is a consequence of the non-completion of the project (NIR/75/070) Standardization and Quality Control, which had envisaged a UNDP input of (US) $ 272,000 and Government cost sharing of (US) $ 1,188,000. The Government cost sharing was deposited but subsequently transferred to Programme cost sharing. Less than (US) $ 130,000 were delivered since no buildings were constructed as originally planned to house the required equipment worth (US) $ 1.53 million, and also because of the relocation of SON's Headquarters from Lagos to Enugu which was later discovered to be an unsuitable site. It has since been moved from Lagos to Abuja. Actually, the buildings in Lagos and Abuja are completed. Those in Kaduna and Enugu are nearing completion; and those in Jos will be started towards the end of the present project.

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

In June 1988 the Government reapproached UNDP to assist SON. In November/December 1989 a UNIDO experts' mission, composed of a laboratory accreditation expert and the Secretary General of the African Regional Standards Organization (ARSO) was fielded to formulate a draft project document together with a project formulation framework. To improve the quality of Nigerian products, the Government has requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

Description of project

The project aims at institution building by strengthening the capacities and technical capabilities of SON in order to enable it to operate integrated activities on standardization, quality assurance, testing and modern documentation and information systems for the benefit of all sectors of the economy, and in particular, to promote the development of efficient and competitive industries geared towards the production of quality goods.

Project activities will include: (i) a modern documentation and information system on standards and related matters, established within SON; (ii) an operational Quality Assurance Department; (iii) operational in-house testing facilities in Lagos(chemical/biochemical laboratories), Enugu (mechanical and electrical/electronic laboratories) and Kaduna (textile and leather testing laboratories); (iv) an initial scheme for laboratory accreditation both for SlON and external laboratories; and (v) an initial scheme for factory inspection, advisory services in quality control and use of certification mark.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a testing and quality assurance adviser/CTA (36 man-months), an expert each in mechanical testing, chemical testing, electrical testing, textile/leather testing (nine man-months each), an expert in accreditation (four man-months), one in metrology (three man-months), one in information management (four man-months) and one UNDP consultant for project evaluation and monitoring (one man-month); three subcontracts for the design of SON's metrology laboratories by local architects; fellowships (36 man-months) and study tours (seven man-months), equipment for mechanical, electrical, chemical, textile/leather testing, for documentation and information systems, for public relations work, motor vehicles and spare parts and supplies; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	962 900
Subcontract	50 000
Training	171 000
Equipment	1 309 000
Miscellaneous	30 000
Total	2 522 900

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